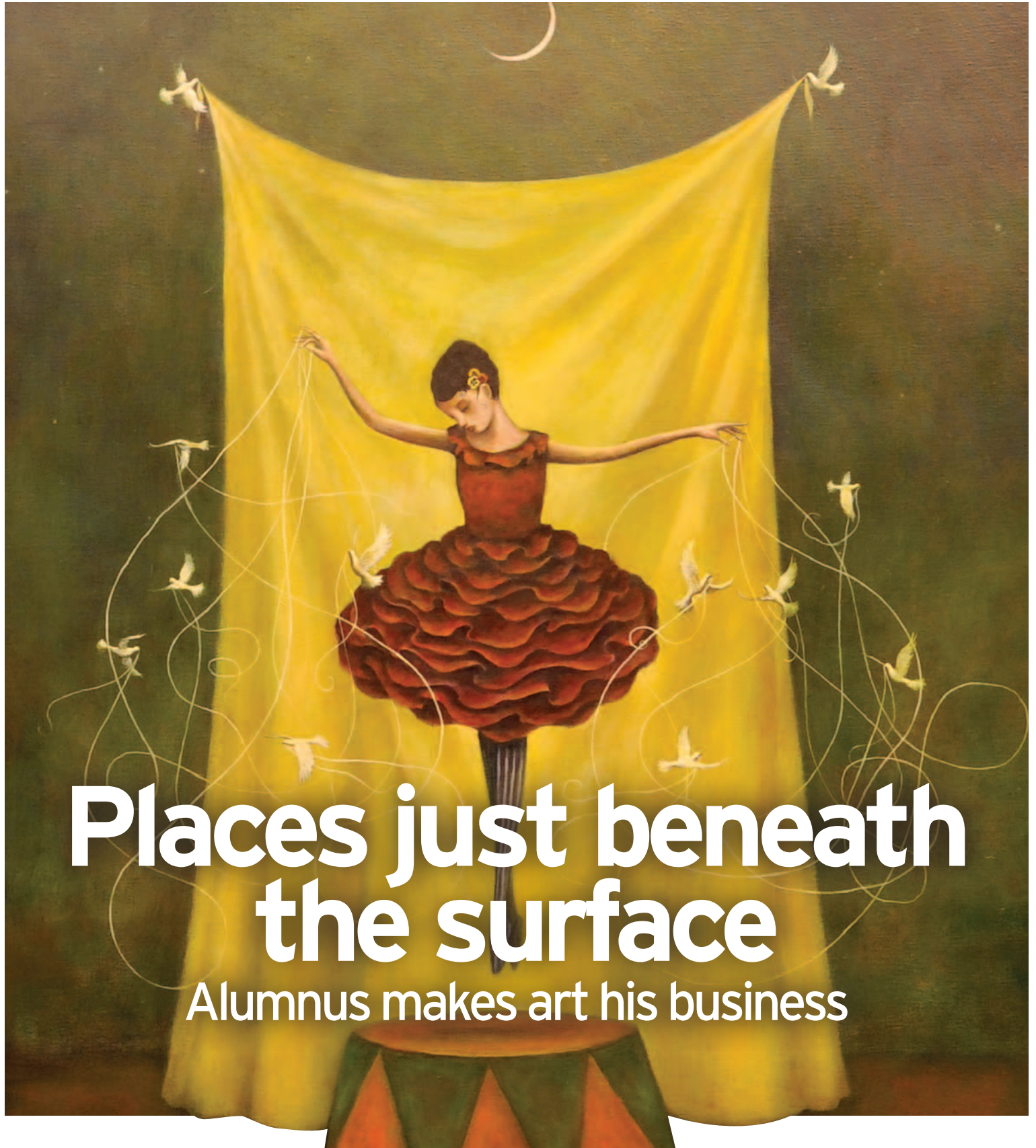


# UNC Charlotte

The magazine of The University of North Carolina at Charlotte for Alumni and Friends • v17 q3 • 2010



## Places just beneath the surface

Alumnus makes art his business



We are as committed as ever to making the educational and co-curricular experiences at UNC Charlotte the very best that they can be.



## Where We Stand: Remaining Mission-Minded

In our last issue I wrote about the challenges confronting the Governor and members of the General Assembly in assembling a state budget while grappling with a slow economic recovery and uncertain state revenues. For a good part of this summer, it appeared that the outlook for the University budget was extremely poor and that the campus would again have to make large reductions in classroom offerings, student support, and administrative services. In the last weeks of the legislative session, however, a consensus was reached that tuition increases larger than previously planned would have to be part of the solution.

At UNC Charlotte, our Trustees accepted my recommendation that annual tuition for resident North Carolina undergraduate students be increased by \$708. Trustees also supported the allocation of additional campus resources for financial aid for needy students, supplementing approximately \$34 million in additional aid allocated by the General Assembly. In all, while not a perfect solution, the compromise reached was one that will permit us to continue to serve our students with an adequate array of courses and supply of instructors. At the same time, we recognize that the increased financial burden upon some of our students and their families will be challenging. As a result, in addition to supplementing the financial aid packages of the neediest students, we will debut a new textbook rental program that promises to save students hundreds of dollars in purchasing costs.

Noteworthy among the budget decisions was the very positive news that UNC Charlotte will receive the remaining \$3 million of a \$5 million request partially funded last year to support the hiring of faculty and technical staff for our new \$71 million Energy Production and Infrastructure Center. These funds and the new building will help us respond comprehensively to the demand for new engineers to serve the growing number of energy-related industries in the greater Charlotte region.

Another important development was final approval by the General Assembly and the Governor of the construction of facilities needed to launch the UNC Charlotte football program; in fact, it's a done deal — we will field a football team in 2013. After more than three years of study and analysis, the Board of Trustees and the UNC Board of Governors approved plans to move forward with the football program

using a combination of student fees, private contributions, and seat license and ticket sales. Among the first signs of forward progress will be construction starting next spring on a permanent, 15,000-seat stadium, field house, and practice fields on campus. I encourage you to read more about this monumental occasion on page 3 of the magazine.

In the meantime, while we have been toasting the final approval of football, a very exciting “first” has taken place. The 15 students selected as the inaugural class of Levine Scholars have returned from the journey of a lifetime. As part of our premiere, merit-based scholarship program, Levine Scholars take part in a 25-day leadership expedition in Wyoming. The scholars left on July 11, and we are ecstatic that all have returned unscathed, and a little transformed, from what was an arduous and enlightening trip. They experienced the beauty of my former stomping grounds, got to know each other, and participated in activities to enhance their leadership skills. I wouldn't be surprised if a few of them returned to Charlotte with a new taste for country music, as did I.

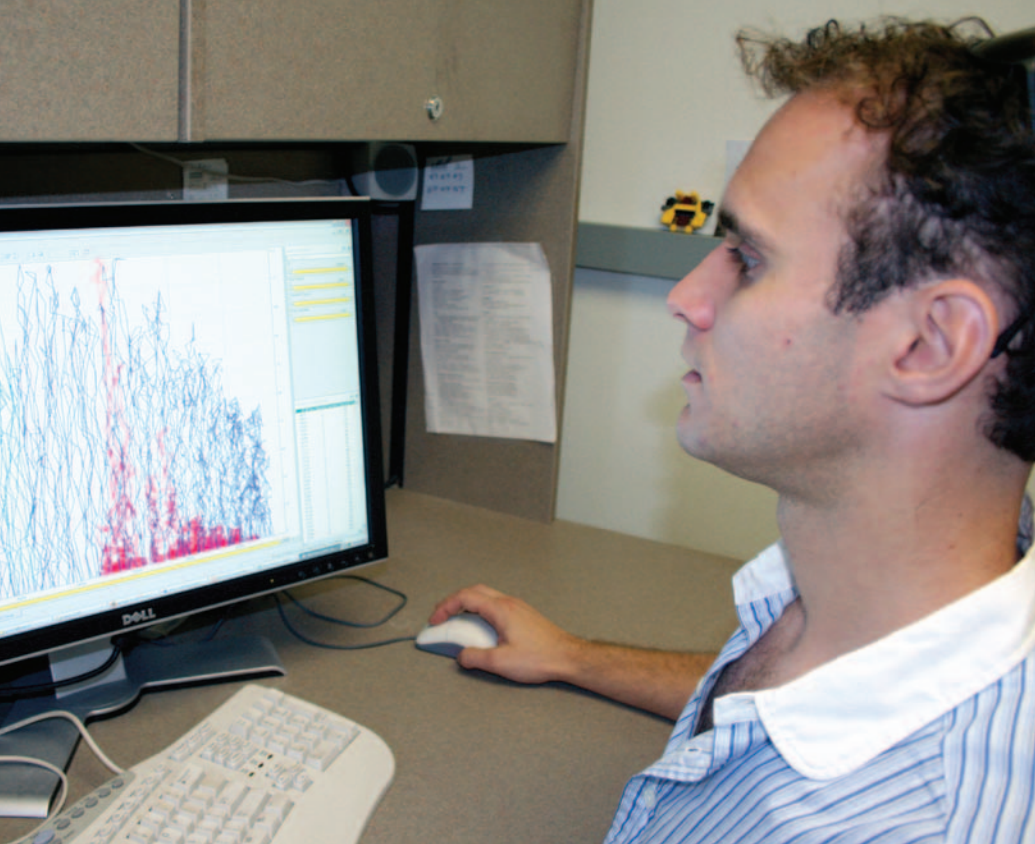
While traversing the wilderness, the students documented the experience using hand-held digital cameras. You can see the American outback through their eyes on UNC Charlotte's YouTube channel.

With this news, we usher in the 2010-2011 academic year. We expect to exceed 25,000 students for the first time in our history, with enrollment growth fueled principally by students staying in school longer while waiting for jobs to open up and increased demand for our graduate programs. As the federal stimulus money leaves the state budget next year, there will certainly be challenges ahead. I can assure you, however, that we are as committed as ever to making the educational and co-curricular experiences at UNC Charlotte the very best that they can be and to fully delivering upon our mission as North Carolina's urban research university.

Cordially,

Philip L. Dubois  
Chancellor





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## On the cover:

UNC Charlotte alumnus Duy Huynh has enjoyed success as an artist and proprietor of Lark and Key gallery. This painting, among his latest works, is titled "Transfer of Grace (2)," acrylic on canvas.



## Diversity That Enriches

Diversity – of thought, of expression, of life experiences, of endeavor – really is essential to building greatness in a campus community. This edition of UNC Charlotte highlights diversity even more so than other recent editions. Our editorial and design team have done a great job presenting this for our readers, so please, as you page through this edition, give some thought to what a wondrous community of people comprise your University today.

Examples: Artist and alum Duy Huynh merges an immigrant's perspective into his paintings that reflect geographical and cultural displacement. Professor Akin Ogundiran actually digs for history in his native Africa, unearthing knowledge about the nature of empire, wherever it may develop. Student Kaitlyn Tokay, a self-espoused “freegan” goes to great lengths to salvage what others waste. Student-athlete Shannon McCallum is turning a disadvantaged childhood into a successful college career. The University's ADVANCE program is helping female academicians climb the career ladder. This treasure of divergent perspectives and experiences greatly enrich our campus community, but even beyond that, it enhances lives in the greater Charlotte community.

I am definitely biased, but I'm going to repeat a favorite assertion: UNC Charlotte does good! It is an absolute gem, and like a gem it enriches those who own it. Own UNC Charlotte.

Regards,

John D. Bland, Editor  
Director of Public Relations

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# Done Deal!

## Charlotte 49ers Football Gets Final Approval

It's official. The Charlotte 49ers will start football in the fall of 2013.

In early August, nearly three and a half years after the UNC Charlotte Board of Trustees authorized a study of the feasibility of establishing an intercollegiate football program, Governor Beverly Perdue signed the University Non-Appropriated Capital Project bill that included the funding plan for the 49ers football stadium construction, effectively placing the final piece of the 49ers football puzzle.

"With the Governor's signature endorsing the General Assembly's approval

"There are no more ifs, no more votes, no more approvals. We will play football in 2013. It's a done deal."

of construction of our football-related facilities, we open a new chapter in the dynamic history of UNC Charlotte," said UNC Charlotte Chancellor Philip L. Dubois. "The path to this point has been a lengthy but carefully considered one, from the Trustees' decision in late 2006 to authorize a study of the feasibility of football to final approval by the Board of Governors this past spring."

The 49ers have cleared no less than eight hurdles since that Sept. 18, 2008 recommendation – most in unanimous fashion.

The Charlotte 49ers will play football in 2013.

"We've done it," said 49ers Director of Athletics Judy Rose. "To think that what was started way back with the initial feasibility study – and even before that with the grassroots movement – has now received the final go-ahead – it's extremely satisfying. This has not been an easy process, but nothing worthwhile ever is. There are no more ifs, no more votes, no more approvals. We will play football in 2013. It's a done deal."

The 49ers first pushed forward with the premise to start a football program when an appointed Football Feasibility Committee, chaired by community leader Mac Everett, presented its unanimous recommendation to Dubois in February of 2008. On Sept. 16 of that year, two days before the Chancellor was to make his recommendation after months of his own due diligence, the University's student body held a pep rally in support of adding football. With the student's backing, the University gave its approval, first in the form of the Chancellor's recommendation and then on Nov. 13, 2008 when the University's Board

Continued on p. 17



# news briefs

## RESEARCHERS NOTED FOR INDUSTRIAL INNOVATION

A research team of engineers from the U.S. Department of Energy's Y-12 National Security Complex in Oak Ridge, Tenn., and UNC Charlotte has won a coveted 2010 "R&D 100 Award" from *R&D Magazine*.

The innovation award, which is given annually to recognize the 100 most technologically significant new products of the year, was for the development of a sophisticated new method that eliminates the formation of long, dangerous strips of metal ("chips") in the process of machining ductile materials.

The team included William E. Barkman and Edwin F. Babelay Jr. from Y-12 and K. Scott Smith, Thomas S. Assaid, Justin T. McFarland, and David A. Tursky from UNC Charlotte, and former UNC Charlotte students Bethany Woody (now at InsituTec) and David Adams (now at Moore Nanotechnology Systems).

Smith, who headed the university-based group and is professor and chair in UNC



Ed Babelay, Bill Barkman, Scott Smith, David Tursky, Thomas Assaid, Bethany Woody, Justin McFarland, David Adams

Charlotte's Department of Mechanical Engineering, noted that ductile metals "have a tendency to make long stringy chips, which tangle up and often make a big 'bird's nest.'" These tangled chips can damage the workpiece or cause operator injury.

Manual removal of the chips is a dangerous process, Smith notes, so the innovation is likely to prevent numerous injuries. The procedure will also have a significant impact on costs in metal manufacturing.

"We have also shown that the same strategy can be used to control the tool temperature, which is strongly related to the tool wear, and tool wear is a big driver for difficult-to-machine materials including titanium, stainless steel, and nickel alloys," Smith said. "For this reason, the technology has applications in power turbines and jet engines, for example."

## AFRICANA STUDIES TO COLLABORATE WITH FRIENDS OF HISTORIC CEMETERY

UNC Charlotte's Africana Studies department announced that it is collaborating with The Friends of Old Westview Cemetery, Inc. to develop a long-range plan to help restore the more than 150-year-old cemetery in Wadesboro.

Since the passing of the cemetery's caretaker in the 1960s, the cemetery has become overgrown and neglected, according to friends of the cemetery.

Participating in the Martin Luther King Day of Service earlier this year, members of the Africana Studies Club, a student organization at the University, led a project which involved cleaning and documenting grave markers. The collaboration grew out of the service project and was recently announced during a Friends of Old Westview Cemetery board of directors meeting.

Old Westview Cemetery was founded in the mid-19th century and has served as the primary burial ground for Wadesboro's African-American community. Many citizens who contributed to Wadesboro's post-emancipation African-American community are buried in Old Westview.



Susan Burgess

## FELLOWSHIP HONORS SUSAN BURGESS

To honor the legacy of long-time public servant, city council member and mayor pro tem Susan Burgess, who died in June, UNC Charlotte is establishing an endowed fellowship in her name.

The Susan M. Burgess Fellowship in Public Administration at UNC Charlotte will be given annually to help a master's student become a community leader.

An at-large member of city council since 1999, Burgess chaired the City Council Housing and Neighborhood Development and Economic Development committees during her tenure. In addition to serving as mayor pro tem for six years, Burgess served on the Charlotte Mecklenburg

Board of Education from 1990 to 1997, the last two years as chair.

According to friends and admirers, they wished to establish a lasting legacy in her honor, in the city she loved and served. Her friends felt it fitting that the fellowship be created at UNC Charlotte because so many city, county and police members are graduates of the Master in Public Administration program, housed in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences' Department of Political Science.

Contributions to the Susan M. Burgess Fellowship in Public Administration can be made through the UNC Charlotte Foundation Web site <https://giving.uncc.edu>; click on the "make a gift" link or mail contributions to the UNC Charlotte Foundation, 9201 University City Boulevard, Charlotte, N.C. 28223.



The cemetery is currently on the “Study List” of historical places and is eligible for placement on the National Register.

UNC Charlotte faculty and students will conduct research on the historical significance of the all-black cemetery and develop public educational programs on the history of Wadesboro and the biographies of those buried in Old Westview.

### UNDERGRADS GET PRESTIGIOUS SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDY ABROAD

Four UNC Charlotte undergraduate students have received prestigious Benjamin Gilman International Scholarships to study abroad during the 2010-11 academic year.

Jessica Craig, Hugh Kinsey, Eber Pena and Lilia Shaforostov will receive awards between \$3,000 and \$5,000. Craig, a junior majoring in social work, will spend the entire year at the University of Ghana. Computer science major and Japanese minor Kinsey will spend the year at Japan's Gakushuin University. Heidelberg University in Germany is the destination for Pena, a German and history major who is pursuing a minor in international studies. Shaforostov, a junior pre-business major, also will attend the University of Ghana for the fall.

“The best education comes from experience, and I want to go further than the routine of making it to class,” said Shaforostov, who views study abroad as part of a “real” education. “I want to experience learning with someone who has a different perception of it, and I want to experience this journey as something that can be passed on to others – to remind everyone that there is a whole world out there.”

### 49ER FACTOID: ALUMS ABOUND

Did you know that 12 percent of all college graduates in the Charlotte region are alums of UNC Charlotte? It's true. According to data obtained by the Office of Development, the Charlotte region is home to more than 200,000 49ers.

## Bella the “Corpse Flower” Blooms Again!

In June, UNC Charlotte's titan arum bloomed again. Known at the University as Bella, the titan arum or “corpse flower” is exceptionally rare and known for its pungent stench.

Discovered in 1878, titan arums are the world's largest flowering structures and grow wild in the rainforests of Sumatra. The plant rarely flowers in the jungle and even more rarely when grown in cultivation.

The flowering structure – which can reach nearly nine feet and open to a diameter of three to four feet – opens only for a few days. Thousands of tiny flowers are hidden inside the central column, called the spadix. On the day the flower opens, the plant smells repulsive (similar to rotting flesh) and can be detected from half a mile away.

More than 2,400 visitors came to the greenhouse to see – and smell – Bella. The bloom lasted only three days, and the putrid smell lasted only the first day, but that's when Bella was the most spectacular.

UNC Charlotte's Bella has only bloomed once before, on July 1, 2007. She was nine years old, which is relatively young for a titan to bloom. At the time, UNC Charlotte was only the 20th U.S. institution to cultivate a bloom and the first in the Southeast. More than 4,000 people visited campus to view the spectacular plant.



Bella, the titan arum, bloomed in June.



# news briefs

## TEXTBOOK RENTAL PROGRAM WILL HELP STUDENTS ECONOMIZE

Barnes & Noble at UNC Charlotte will provide a textbook rental option for Fall 2010 semester. The new program will allow students to rent textbooks for 45 percent of the cost of purchasing a new textbook.

Students will be able to rent books in the store or from the bookstore's Web site.

The new rental option is a cooperative commitment between UNC Charlotte Business Services and Barnes & Noble College Booksellers for textbook affordability.

Textbook rental program features:

- Rental period is for the duration of the semester. Books are due back at the bookstore 10 days after the last day of finals. Students can return the books in person or mail them to the bookstore.
- Students may highlight or mark the rented

books just as they would a purchased book with plans to sell it back.

- Students may pay the rental fees by cash, check, credit, debit, 49er Account or Barnes & Noble gift cards. (For security purposes, a valid credit card must also be provided regardless of the rental payment method).
- Students may convert their rental to a purchase during the first two weeks of class.
- An e-mail to remind students to return their books will be sent near the end of the semester. Books not returned, or returned in unsalable condition, will be subject to replacement and processing fees.

"UNC Charlotte is dedicated to giving our students as many options as possible and to let students drive the decisions about textbook affordability," said Karen Natale, the University's bookstore and licensing contract manager. "Whether they want new, used, digital, open source, or rentable textbooks, it's all available at the University."

## NURSING STUDENTS WIN VIDEO COMPETITION

In May, three teams of UNC Charlotte nursing students topped the competition for the Innovative Nursing Education Technologies (iNet) "Get the Picture Patient Education Video" awards.

Each group of senior nursing students won \$1,000, and the videos were showcased at the iNET 2010 conference "Enhancing Nursing Curriculum with Technology: High Touch, High Tech" held at UNC Charlotte in August.

Innovative Nursing Education Technologies (iNET) is a collaborative among the schools of nursing at Duke University, UNC Charlotte and Western Carolina University. It is federally funded through the Health Services Research Academy. Nursing teams developed a video to educate the public about a selected list of health concerns, including smoking cessation, hypertension and risk factors of stroke.

## 'The Fat Boy Chronicles: The Movie' Premieres on Campus

This summer, a movie version of the book, "The Fat Boy Chronicles," premiered at UNC Charlotte. Almost 1,000 people attended the premiere at the Student Union, providing

UNC Charlotte with another chance to showcase the campus to children, parents and local civic leaders.

Inspired by a true story, "The Fat Boy Chronicles" follows 14-year-old Jimmy as he enters the freshman year of high school and chronicles his struggle with bullying and obesity.

Based on the book by Diane Lang and Michael Buchanan, the movie follows Jimmy's adjustment to a new school. Through his eyes, heart, and journal, we share the physical, psychological, and social consequences of obesity. Jimmy is a survivor, but while teens, parents, and educators may applaud his accomplishments, they also learn about what life is like for vulnerable teens facing daily self-doubt and discrimination.

The most recent national Youth Risk Behavior Survey indicated that the largest percentage of schoolchildren who are bullied attributed that bullying to body size. The premiere of "The Fat Boy Chronicles" was the first step in launching Charlotte, Get Your Move On!, a community initiative modeled after Let's Move, a nationwide campaign to tackle childhood obesity.

The Charlotte screening is a collaboration among Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools; Teen Health Connection, a community health partner of Levine Children's Hospital; UNC Charlotte; and publisher Sleeping Bear Press.



Stars of "The Fat Boy Chronicles," gathered here with Chancellor Dubois and Lisa Lewis Dubois, attended the national movie premiere on campus.



# Taking the Plunge

## Dumpster Diving for a Cause

By Lisa A. Patterson



Kaitlyn Tokay, who espouses a “freegan” lifestyle, was surprised by the amount of food items wasted on a daily basis. Pictured here are some of the items she recently salvaged from a local grocery store dumpster.

The refrigerator door swings open to reveal fully stocked shelves of food — far more than one person would need. According to Kaitlyn Tokay, that’s kind of the point. Tokay removed all of the food from a dumpster at a nearby grocery store. The UNC Charlotte junior hasn’t paid for groceries in well over a month.

During her experiment in “dumpster diving,” Tokay has rescued countless cakes, pies, loaves of bread, fruits and vegetables, and even dairy and meat products, from the trash heap. The international business major practices freeganism, a lifestyle whose

Kaitlyn Tokay  
hopes to  
raise awareness  
of poverty,  
homelessness  
and  
wastefulness.

adherents buy and use as little as possible. From the clothes she wears to the bike she rides to and from her job as a YMCA lifeguard and swim instructor, Tokay lives the principles of freeganism. Tokay recently decided to extend the practice to what she eats.

While dumpster diving fits with her freegan lifestyle, Tokay said she is experimenting with the practice to raise awareness of poverty, homelessness and wastefulness.

Continued on p. 31

# Great Discoveries in Nutrition

## Bioinformatics stakes its claim at N.C. Research Campus

By Paul Nowell

Cory Brouwer accepts the fact most people can only achieve a limited grasp of his work as the director of UNC Charlotte's Bioinformatics Services Division at the North Carolina Research Campus (NCRC).

And that's just fine with Brouwer, who realizes his scientific expertise is narrowly focused but increasingly important to mankind. He recently came aboard from the pharmaceutical giant Pfizer Inc. to oversee the University's bioinformatics research program at David Murdock's \$1 billion brainchild in nearby Kannapolis.

Scientists from several other leading universities – including Duke, UNC Chapel Hill and other UNC system schools – will benefit from the work done by UNC Charlotte researchers as they work on their own research.

"This is a great opportunity for UNC Charlotte to introduce our capabilities in this vital area to other leading scientists," Brouwer said in an interview in his office at NCRC. "When you are only a short walk down the hall from these researchers, it's much easier to overcome some of the things that can distance us. It leads to better and more effective collaboration."

That's why UNC Charlotte decided to open the division in the Core Laboratory Building at the NCRC, a 350-acre research park that will be home to the research programs of biotechnology companies as well as university and medical research programs.

There they will work, often in collaboration with their peers, in hopes of achieving Murdock's vision to make NCRC a nucleus for great discoveries in nutrition, health and biotechnology research.



The Core Lab at N.C. Research Campus

Brouwer said the UNC Charlotte team will look for opportunities to collaborate with researchers from private industry and other universities on their own groundbreaking work.

Some of those projects include:

- UNC Chapel Hill's Nutrition Research Institute will develop innovative approaches to understand the role of diet and activity in normal brain development, cancer prevention, and the prevention and treatment of obesity.
- The North Carolina State University Fruit and Vegetable Science Institute will utilize emerging technologies for plant improvement and human health benefits. The goal is to develop a new generation of fruits and vegetables with advanced nutritional and horticultural characteristics.

Researchers from Duke University are conducting the so-called MURDOCK Study, which has been compared with the 1948 Framingham Heart Study that followed generations of residents of the city in

Massachusetts. Researchers expect to recruit some 50,000 people from the Cabarrus and Kannapolis areas, sequence their genomes, and identify associations to disease.

In addition, researchers from Appalachian State University, North Carolina Central University, N.C. A&T State University and UNC Greensboro are setting up operations for various research projects in the Core Lab.

Brouwer received a doctorate in molecular biology at Iowa State University and started his career in the fledgling bioinformatics department at Pioneer Hi-Bred. After helping build the group there he moved to Connecticut to join a company called CuraGen and spent several years in the biotech world. Later he moved over to large pharma working for Pfizer, first in Connecticut, but most recently directing a computational sciences group in the United Kingdom.

His background is in bioinformatics, which uses powerful computers to solve complex problems in biology. Without bioinformatics, he said, researchers would



never be able to process the huge amount of information the biotech discovery process now generates.

For example, none of the powerful antiviral drugs approved in recent years would have come to the market without the use of bioinformatics to crunch the data.

Brouwer compares it to a tool most people can understand: a spreadsheet. That was what researchers had at their disposal before the advent of bioinformatics.

"You could never fit all the gigabytes and even terabytes of data needed for one experiment on one Excel spreadsheet," he said. "You need our expertise to process all this data and we have the critical mass needed for these researchers to do their work."

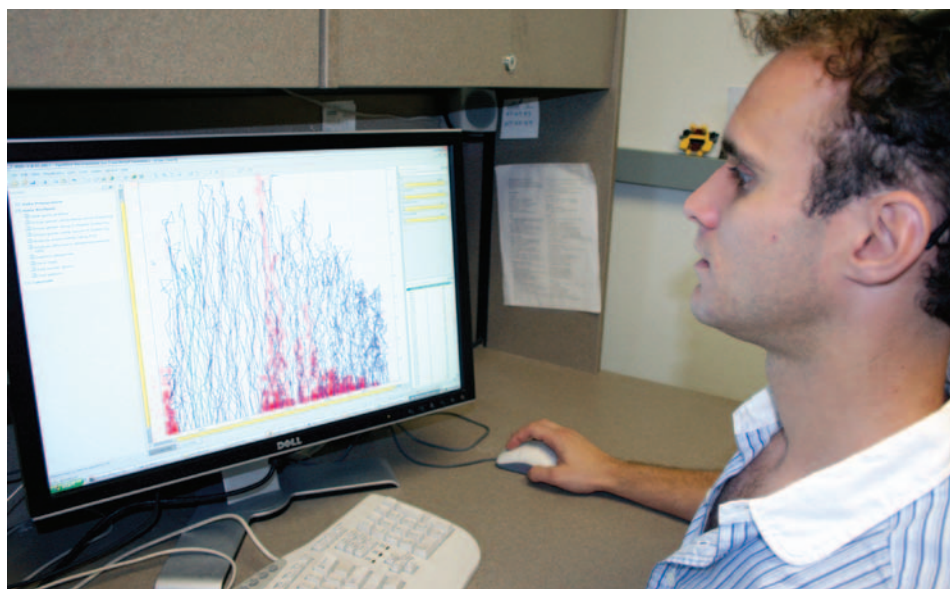
UNC Charlotte is invested in bioinformatics. In August 2009, the University's Bioinformatics Research Center (BRC) moved into a new \$35 million building on the Charlotte Research Institute Campus of UNC Charlotte. The building offers space for both wet and dry laboratories, and includes core facilities for molecular biology, proteomics, and computing.

"The work being done in life sciences and biotechnology in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century is really equivalent to what was being done in physics and electronics in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century," said Larry Mays, director of UNC Charlotte's Bioinformatics Center. "It's vitally important for this university to be actively engaged in this biotechnology enterprise."

The BRC took a leadership role in developing bioinformatics programs in collaboration with the developers of the NCRC. Brouwer and his colleagues will focus on the development of novel analytical methods for knowledge discovery in large biological datasets.

"The NCRC provides us with a real opportunity for UNC Charlotte to be closely involved in this cutting-edge work," Mays said. "One of the key problems facing biotechnology is trying to make sense of the enormous amount of data in these research projects."

Research at the division will enable basic and applied researchers to ask and answer complex questions in molecular and population biology, to manage and navigate the vast data sets that are generated by modern molecular biology methods, and to translate the results into practical benefits



Bioinformatics uses powerful computers to help solve complex problems in biology.

"It's vitally important for this university to be actively engaged in this biotechnology enterprise."

through understanding of the interacting effects of health, nutrition, development, and behavior.

Mays said UNC Charlotte's presence in the Core Lab at NCRC also gives faculty members an opportunity to develop new technological tools for the future. Besides Brouwer, other UNC Charlotte faculty members are working at NCRC, including Ann Loraine and Xiuxia Du.

Finally, Mays said, the Bioinformatics Services Division provides a rich training ground for students to learn the skills necessary to work in the field.

Murdock's signature can be found throughout the Core Lab Building, from the imported Italian marble floors and rare furniture to the distinctive yellow paint (Murdock's favorite color) on almost every wall in the Core Lab.

Even the brightly-colored mural on the ceiling above the lobby pays tribute to his nutritional beliefs – it features a cornucopia of fruits and vegetables. The

311,000-square-foot Core Lab Building will house \$150 million of state-of-the-art scientific equipment that is available for use by tenant universities and companies.

The most celebrated piece of equipment is the Bruker 950-megahertz nuclear magnetic resonance spectrometer, which Sheetal Ghelani, business development manager at the David H. Murdock Research Institute, described as "the largest of its kind in the Western Hemisphere."

The two-story, eight-ton machine will significantly enhance key areas of research, such as drug development and nutrition. The machine will allow scientists to deduce the structure of larger and more complex molecules and hopefully lead to discoveries of new therapies.

As she led visitors on a tour of the Core Lab Building, Ghelani pointed out some of the technology available to the UNC Charlotte researchers and their counterparts from other universities, medical centers and private businesses.

"What we really have here is an incredible capacity; it's not that we have equipment that is completely unique," she said. "What is unique about this place is that we have all these labs under one roof and there's unlimited potential to put the pieces together to solve some large puzzles."

*Paul Nowell is media relations manager in the Office of Public Relations.*



# A Gallery of One's Own

By Lisa A. Patterson

Local artist and UNC Charlotte alumnus Duy Huynh has enjoyed a successful career making paintings that demonstrate technical prowess and imagination. Huynh and partner Sandy Snead are the proprietors of Lark and Key gallery, with locations in NoDa and South End.



Stories in the form of paintings surround Duy Huynh. All along the red brick walls, ethereal figures float untethered against earth-tone backgrounds that appear lit from within. The paintings give off a soft glow, contributing to the welcoming ambiance of the Lark and Key Gallery in Charlotte's North Davidson neighborhood.

Huynh sits, clearly at ease amidst the worlds he has created. He begins to tell his story, starting at the beginning.

The Vietnamese-born artist and UNC Charlotte alumnus emigrated to the United States in 1981 with his parents and two siblings. His family was among the massive wave of refugees, or Boat People, to depart Communist-controlled Vietnam in the aftermath of the fall of Saigon.

Under the new communist government, many people who supported the old government were sent to "re-education camps" and others to "new economic zones." More than one million people were imprisoned without formal charges or trials, and thousands were abused or tortured.

An uncertain future held far greater appeal to hundreds of thousands of refugees than the poverty and destruction of the Vietnamese homeland.

"A lot of us were desperate for a way out of the country and were willing to risk our lives to get out. I was way too young to understand the gravity of the whole trip," Huynh said. "I remember bits and parts – a lot of dark, water, I remember sometimes on the boat there wasn't any food, and other kids crying," Huynh recalled. "My parents said we were the best kids on the boat because we were so well behaved – so much so that they the others thought we were hiding food from them."

The figures in Huynh's paintings are neither here nor there – they occupy a space somewhere between consciousness and the deeper recesses of the mind. They point to a place just beneath the surface, free from the constraints of language, a place most of us might only ever access in dreams.

The Boat People were rescued by the U.S. Navy. They were moved from refugee camps in Thailand and the Philippines before gaining sponsorship by a Buddhist temple and thereby entry into Pomona, Calif.

"We were just really thankful to finally make it to the states. I didn't even know we

had arrived in America," Huynh said. "It was a total change from the camps, and I really liked it."

One, two, three. That was the extent of Huynh's English. The six-year-old was enrolled in ESL classes and entered public school with a limited vocabulary and a talent for drawing.

### CHALK BOARD CHILD

Some of Huynh's most prominent memories of childhood in Pomona include artistic implements and aspirations. Times were tough, money was tight. Very few families in Huynh's neighborhood had discretionary income to spend on toys, so the children resorted to imagination for their entertainment.

"I had a friend who lived close to us and when I went to his house we would play with a chalk board of all things. I remember drawing my own comic book adventures on the chalk board," Huynh said. "One of the earliest paintings I did in college was a piece called 'Chalk Board Child.' That piece has a lot of good memories for me."

Before Huynh mastered the language or understood American cultural norms, he tapped into the power of art as a medium for communication. Handing a classmate a drawing became a way to forge connections across the language barrier and make friends.

Huynh quickly moved beyond coloring books and chalk boards and onto more elaborate comics and cartoons. Known as the "class artist," Huynh was interested in painting but intimidated by the medium. He nurtured his passion by creating backdrops for school programs and studying graffiti and



"A lot of us were desperate for a way out of the country and were willing to risk our lives to get out."

"Art seemed instantly gratifying – I could make something tangible. That still motivates me."

comic book art. Looking back, he says his career path was clear as early as the third grade.

"Art seemed instantly gratifying – I could make something tangible. That still motivates me," Huynh said.

Eager for a change of pace, Huynh's family relocated to Charlotte in 1994. The high school senior was immediately struck by the number of trees lining the city's streets, filling its neighborhoods – the trees were as prolific in Charlotte as the concrete pylons supporting vast expanses of southern California freeway.

A man and woman rest gently in each other's arms cradled by the branches of a great tree, its curled roots visible below the ground's surface. The painting, "Place of Steadiness," suggests respite.

Huynh's natural talent and enthusiasm for art were the foundation for his entry into UNC Charlotte as an art major. But the many transformational experiences Huynh had while an undergraduate student laid the groundwork for his career as a working artist.

As a freshman, Huynh bought into the accepted wisdom that graphic design is the only way to make money from the arts.

It wasn't long before Huynh tired of graphic design and decided to concentrate on illustration. That is, until he took a painting class as a sophomore. Numerous

painting classes and multiple influential professors later, Huynh was hooked. He graduated from UNC Charlotte with concentrations in painting and illustration and has since gone back to the University several times to speak to senior seminar classes.

Huynh's fellow students played as much a role in his education as his professors.

"I had already started showing my work when I was still in school. Me and four other guys got together and rented a space called the Wrightnow Gallery, in NoDa. We rented the space for a month, split the cost and put on our first public exhibitions. That was my first taste of doing a gallery exhibition. Most of us weren't really that interested in selling work – it was just having the exposure to it."

After that Huynh sought every opportunity to show his artwork. It could be in a coffee shop, a friend's restaurant, at a music venue – he wanted his work "out there," and he wanted to know what people thought of it.

Huynh was doing what he loved, but he also had to pay the bills. He waited tables, washed dishes, worked for a gallery in the mall delivering artwork, worked the cash register at Hardees, and even did the 9 to 5 at a company that specialized in stage design and backdrops for performances. All of those experiences served as motivation for the artist to keep creating.

And then he gave up paying the bills, sort of. When Huynh secured space at an uptown studio, he gained the exposure he needed.

"They were doing a lot of group shows. I fell in love with the whole Bohemian starving artist life there – I gave up my apartment and lived out of the studio for a while without a shower or a kitchen," Huynh said. However, "I didn't live there too long because you're not supposed to," he noted. "You definitely learn to be resourceful."

At some time or another, every working artist must confront the question of how to price his or her work. Demand can drive up prices, but where to start?

"You have to look at how much time you put into the work, the complexity of







“All I really wanted to do was have the space and time to make my work, and the forum to showcase it.”

the piece, and the emotional attachment,” Huynh said. “Also, is the rent due, how hungry am I, how much gas do I have in my car...”

Galleries often garner a hefty commission (around 50 percent), but they also provide great exposure and guidance to artists who might not be business savvy.



Huynh talks briefly with his partner, Sandy Snead, about a painting that is leaning up against the wall. It is a new work, featuring a woman suspended in air, wearing a dress that appears to be made of butterflies. She hovers gracefully above a winding road and it's impossible to tell whether she will decide to touch down or continue her ascent. Huynh has decided to price the untitled painting at \$6,000.

Now Huynh and Snead are in the position to offer exposure to fellow artists at their galleries, located in NoDa and South End. The NoDa location of Lark and Key gallery opened in 2008 and was the realization of Huynh's longtime dream.

“I felt it would be really nice to have my own place one day, but it was a very farfetched thing. I didn't think I'd have my own place at this age

or this stage in my career – of course, Sandy had a lot to do with it,” Huynh said. “We were already organizing festivals and outdoor shows with other artists and there was a certain amount of interest and demand for my work. It just felt right.”

Works by more than 40 different artists in mediums varying from painting to jewelry to pottery are on display at Lark and Key at any given time.

Despite its rapid metamorphosis from mill town to metropolis, Charlotte remains traditional in its tastes, according to Snead. More galleries that feature “everyday working artists,” as well as increased public support for their work, would advance Charlotte's arts scene, Snead said.

Huynh does not like to speculate on Charlotte's art scene – where it is, where it's going, etc. He's far more interested in telling stories.

“That's what sparked my interest in making pictures — to be able to create characters and put them in different settings that make the viewer curious about what's going on or draws their attention,” Huynh said. “I use a lot of symbolism — some are universal symbols different cultures can see and create their own stories with and some symbols are more personal, and you put these symbols together and they create their own language or story line.”

Huynh has achieved a measure of success few working artists his age enjoy. He knows this, and won't be taking his autonomy for granted.

“Years ago all I really wanted to do was have the space and time to make my work, and the forum to showcase it. I feel like I have all of those to an extent,” he said. “But I still have the drive and hunger to improve, and to continue to explore.”

For more information about Huynh, visit [www.duyhuynh.com](http://www.duyhuynh.com); go to [www.larkandkey.com](http://www.larkandkey.com) for Lark and Key gallery.

*Lisa A. Patterson is senior writer in the Office of Public Relations.*

## Star player becomes leader, strives for diploma

By Cliff Mehrtens



# That Feeling You

Shannon McCallum's transition to women's college basketball wasn't smooth.

Where the senior guard from Whiteville, N.C., is now, compared to a few years ago, is improbable and inspiring.

McCallum, Charlotte's leading scorer last season, originally committed to South Carolina after a standout career at Whiteville High. But her SAT test scores and grade point average weren't good enough to qualify for college.

"It was hard coming out of high school," McCallum said. "I had a learning disability

Basketball is what sparked McCallum to improve in the classroom.

(due to hearing deficiencies) since about fifth or sixth grade."

She landed in special classes, but said her father realized that in order to reach college, she'd need to return to the mainstream school population. That's where the academic struggles ensued.

McCallum spent a year at Patterson School, a college prep school in Caldwell County, about 60 miles northwest of Charlotte, before coming to UNC Charlotte. She arrived in 2007, the same season as head coach Karen Aston.



Adjusting to the rigors of college academics took some adjustment, but basketball is what sparked McCallum to improve in the classroom.

Her grade point average is now close to a 3.0, and Aston said McCallum “now takes pride in what she does academically.”

On the court, McCallum’s transition was more dramatic.

Last season, she led the 49ers in scoring (14.2 average), rebounding (7.3 per game), assists (87), steals (80) and blocked shots (30).

10 Conference tournament championship, the first in school history.

McCallum won the conference’s Sixth Player of the Year award, and was named to the all-conference tournament team.

“My goal is to try to win another championship,” McCallum said. “Also, personally my goal is to be a better person as a teammate. I want to become a leader on the team, but it’s hard. I’m trying to do more talking, and saying positive things to my teammates.”

gym without seeing McCallum hard at work.

“She is a gym rat,” Aston said, laughing. “She’s an atypical player who enjoys practice, even though that grind is hard on the body. It’s an outlet for her.”

McCallum’s dedication also spilled into her class work, where she’s closing in on a degree in Africana studies.

“I do take pride in my work,” she said. “I need to get that diploma. I didn’t want to come to school for nothing.”



# Can't Coach

McCallum will be a key component on a team that was 18-14 last season, but missed the NCAA Tournament. The 49ers advanced to the second round of the Women’s National Invitational Tournament.

As a sophomore, McCallum was dynamic as Aston’s first substitute off the bench. She started only four of 31 games, but averaged 12.2 points. McCallum averaged more than 25 minutes per game, as much as most of the starters. She helped the 49ers win 23 games, and the Atlantic

Aston said she “puts a lot of weight on my seniors,” a challenge McCallum is eager to accept.

“The good part is Shannon’s been through the wars of the A-10, and understands the grind of the season. She’s been part of a championship team, and has that feeling you can’t coach. She wants to get back to the NCAA Tournament. Ultimately, Shannon wants to win.”

Aston said that during McCallum’s freshman and sophomore seasons, she couldn’t recall walking past the practice

This season also will be special as McCallum’s sister Paige – a 5-foot-11 guard – joins the 49ers. The sisters played together two years in high school, and against each other countless times.

Shannon McCallum will add big-sister duties to her fledgling role of team leader.

“I’ve already told (Paige) that when we’re on the court, she can’t get the ball all the time. But, she’s already a good leader.”

*Cliff Mebrtens is a Charlotte-based writer with a background covering sports.*

## 49ER ATHLETES CONTINUE TRADITION OF ACADEMIC SUCCESS

UNC Charlotte senior Corey Nagy, of men's golf, and Hailey Beam, of women's soccer, were named the Atlantic 10 (A-10) 2010 Male and Female Scholar-Athletes of the Year in a vote by the league's athletics directors. This marks just the fourth time in league history, and the first since 2001-02, that students from the same institution have won both of the A-10 Scholar-Athlete of the Year Awards. The two honors give Charlotte five award winners in just five years of participation in the league.



Corey Nagy

"I have been so proud of the accomplishments of our student athletes both in the classroom and on the courts and fields," said Director of Athletics Judy Rose. "The fact that Charlotte student athletes have received the A-10 Scholar-Athlete Award five times is incredible. It is even more exciting to garner the award for both the male and female student athletes in the same year. It speaks volumes for the emphasis that we place on both academics and athletics."

Nagy and Beam are part of a long tradition of academically successful 49er athletes.

In fact, UNC Charlotte student athletes have received half of the A-10 athlete of the year awards in the past five years. Only Saint Louis comes close, with two awards.

In those same five years the 49ers have won 25 individual sport Student-Athlete of the Year awards, including five this year; nearly double the amount of the next closest institution.



Hailey Beam

This year, both Nagy and Beam won for their respective sports, while Darius Law won the Men's Indoor and Men's Outdoor Track and Field awards and Adam Gross won the Men's Soccer Award. The 49ers have won the A-10 Golf Student-Athlete of the Year Award in all five seasons in the league.

In addition, Law became the second 49er in six years to win the Arthur Ashe National Scholar-Athlete of the Year Award. Track star Sharonda Johnson won the same award in 2005. Gross, meanwhile received an A-10 Post-Graduate Scholarship. Gross, Law, Beam and Nagy were all named *ESPN The Magazine* Academic all-Americans this past season.

## ALL-TIME A-10 SCHOLAR-ATHLETE OF THE YEAR AWARDS

- 2010: Corey Nagy, male (golf); Hailey Beam, female (soccer)
- 2008: Lindsey Ozimek, female (soccer)
- 2007: Jane Daniels, female (cross country; track and field)
- 2006: Mike Ambrose, male (baseball)

## 2009-10 A-10 SPORT STUDENT-ATHLETE OF THE YEAR AWARDS

- Men's Soccer: Adam Gross
- Women's Soccer: Hailey Beam
- Men's Indoor Track and Field: Darius Law
- Men's Golf: Corey Nagy
- Men's Outdoor Track and Field: Darius Law

## SOCCER, VOLLEYBALL, CROSS COUNTRY HEADLINE FALL SPORTS

The 49ers men's and women's soccer teams, who were both nationally-ranked in 2009, headline the 49ers fall sports programming. The men's soccer team earned the program's first NCAA Tournament berth since 1997 while the women were A-10 runners-up with an unbeaten 9-0-2 record in league play. Charlotte will host the 2010 A-10 Men's Soccer Championship on campus at Transamerica Field.

The men are led by a pair of gifted strikers, Evan James and Andres Cuero. James was second on the team with seven goals while



Andres Cuero returns for the 49ers men's soccer team.

Cuero topped the team with seven assists. Head coach Jeremy Gunn also has a strong defense that includes key returnees Isaac Cowles and Charles Rodriguez. The 49ers toppled third-ranked Wake Forest last season and went 11-3-6 overall and 5-2-2 in A-10 play to return to the NCAA Tournament for the first time in over a decade.

The women return two-time A-10 Offensive Player of the Year Whitney Weinraub. Weinraub led the Atlantic 10 in goals (13), points (32) and game-winning tallies (6) for a high-powered 49ers team that was among the nation's leader in scoring. In three years, Weinraub has scored 31 goals and is just five shy of the 49ers all-time record of 36. Weinraub will be joined by the likes of preseason all-conference choices Oni Bernard, Sam Huecker and Megan Minnix. Former





The volleyball team returns a powerful lineup led by the return of its top three attackers.

49ers men's player John Cullen will guide the team after posting an impressive 16-3-2 mark in 2009.

The 49ers volleyball team, under head coach Chris Redding, is picked to finish sixth in the Atlantic 10. The 49ers return a powerful attack led by the return of its top three attackers. Sophomores Bianca Rouse and Jenna Litoborski were 1-2 in total kills for the 49ers as freshmen while senior Kat Hicks joined them with over 200 kills, as well. That trio, along with returning setter Sheri Davis, look to spark a 49ers team that attracted over 600 fans for each of its home contests on its way to an average of over 900 per match.

In cross country, senior all-America distance runner Amanda Goetschius leads the 49ers women as they race for the A-10 title. Charlotte was the A-10 runner-up last year, and top runners Goetschius, who was the A-10 individual runner-up, Keara Thomas, Laura McCary, Kristin Mitchell and Sarah Willingham all return. The men's side, which loses top guns Adu Dentamo and Chase Eckard, looks to pair the experience of seniors like Aaron Kauffman, Dakota Lowery and Javan Lapp with the youth of impressive sophomores like Ross Roberson, Will Taylor, Daniel Stiefvater and Daweet Dagnachew.

Soccer home games will be played at Transamerica Field; volleyball home matches are at Halton Arena. For complete schedule information go to [www.charlotte49ers.com](http://www.charlotte49ers.com).

Continued from p. 3

of Trustees approved the recommendation without opposition. Dec. 11, 2009, the Board unanimously approved the funding plan. Feb. 12, 2010, the University of North Carolina Board of Governors unanimously approved the funding plan. During the 2010 summer legislative session, the Senate Finance Committee offered its unanimous vote (June 9) as did the Senate floor (June 10). The House Finance Committee added its approval (June 24) and the House voiced its approval, July 7. Gov. Bev Purdue signed the bill in early August.

"We have many people to thank," Dubois added, "including Mac Everett and the members of the public advisory committee which supported football at Charlotte, to the members of the Board of Trustees, Board of Governors, and General Assembly who gave it their careful consideration and ultimate approval. Most of all, we acknowledge our hard-working staff and our loyal students who have agreed to carry the financial burden. This is a great time

to be a Niner. We hope that the entire community will make us their 'home team' on Saturdays."

The 49ers raised over \$5.8 million with the sale of 49ers Seat Licenses (FSLs) and capital gifts over the next year, setting the table for a funding plan that has now received approval from the University Board of Trustees, the university system Board of Governors and the state legislature.

"We have said all along that this is not just about the 49ers athletic department," noted Rose. "It's about the University, the city and the region. So many people have recognized the potential and possibilities and stepped forward in support. This is their success."

The 49ers continue to sell FSLs, which are required to guarantee a seat to 49ers football games.

"We sold over 3,200 FSLs during a time when folks still weren't sure we were going to field a team," Rose said. "We hadn't received all the necessary approvals. Now, fans can purchase those FSLs with the knowledge that yes, the 49ers will play football in 2013."

## WHAT'S TO COME


- **Spring 2011:** Hiring of Head Coach/Coaching Staff
- **May 2011:** Breaking Ground on Charlotte 49ers Football Facility, including football field house and 15,000 seat football stadium.
- **February 2012:** 2012-13 Recruiting Class Signing
- **Summer 2012:** Charlotte 49ers Football Field House Opens
- **Fall 2012:** First Football Class Enrolls
- **Fall 2012:** Announce 2013 Football Schedule
- **December 2012:** 2013-14 Mid-Year Junior College Transfer Signing
- **February 2013:** 2013-14 Recruiting Class Signing
- **Spring 2013:** Spring Football for the 49ers
- **FIRST GAME:** Aug. 31, 2013





# Unearthing an Empire

By Lisa A. Patterson



"Archeology bears witness to the past: That once upon a time, children roamed these overgrown alleys, and that there were shouts of joy and sorrow in the everyday cycle of life."

— Akinwumi Ogundiran



UNC Charlotte Chair and Professor of Africana Studies Akinwumi Ogundiran is digging deeper into an important part of Africa's past to unearth the origins of an empire whose influence can be felt today in the language and cultural practices of people from Brazil, to Nigeria to South Carolina.

According to Ogundiran, empire means political control exercised by one organized political unit over another unit separate from and alien to it. Many factors enter into empire, but the essential core is political: The possession of final authority by one entity over the vital political decisions of another.

The Egyptian Empire is among the most well-known African empires, but it was the Oyo Empire, founded by the Yoruba people in the 15<sup>th</sup> Century, that captured Ogundiran's imagination.

"What is fascinating is growing up in Nigeria I read about the Oyo Empire, but years later I realized that there's a big gap in the empire's historiography," Ogundiran said. "We don't know how the empire began. Historians have focused on the period when it was richest."

Historians contend that warriors were the founders of the empire, but according to Ogundiran, warriors don't build empires. This assertion led Ogundiran to ask why and how the empire spread from a small city state and into one of the largest political units in West Africa, south of the Sahara.

Ogundiran's question morphed into a multi-year, ongoing investigation of various facets of Oyo life. Drawing from anthropology, archeology and

Professor Akinwumi Ogundiran is studying how the Oyo Empire developed as the largest political entity in Atlantic Africa, south of the Niger River. Here he holds an ivory hair comb, one of the many crafts produced by the Empire's inhabitants.



"When we study empires we tend to study the metropolises. To understand how an empire developed, you have to go to the peripheries."



historiography, Ogundiran has peeled back layers of misconception about the empire and its origins, revealing a complex polity with fully developed and firmly entrenched civic, cultural and economic structures.

From 2002 to 2007, Ogundiran's research focused on the role of military men in imperial expansion.

"By mapping the direction of the expansion between 1580 and the 1830s, I realized that the reason military actions were continued was to control trade routes. When the Europeans arrived on the coast of West Africa they wanted to trade, and the purpose of the empire's expansion was to secure trading routes that led to the coast," Ogundiran said.

The Oyo were 200 miles inland and began to expand outward in order to protect traders from attack. A majority of the traders were women.

"Women were engaging in all kinds of crafts, including cloth weaving and jewelry making, so I began to look at the domestic level of production in this pre-industrial society," Ogundiran said. "Women were traveling 50-plus miles to trade – they contributed a great deal to the economy."

Ogundiran's current study focuses on one strategy of empire formation – colonization. He believes that provinces or frontiers of empires, rather than imperial capitals, hold the key to understanding the dynamics of empire formation.

"When we study empires we tend to study the capitals (metropolises). To understand how an empire developed, you have to go to the peripheries," Ogundiran explained. "The answers lie in the peripheries."

Historical sources, consisting of oral interviews and published/unpublished local accounts, led Ogundiran to focus on the Upper Osun area of central Yorubaland. Ogundiran began an excavation of Ede-Ile, likely the first successful colony established by the Oyo to advance their imperial ambitions.

His team is currently working to determine the nature of the Oyo's intrusion into central Yorubaland and how the Oyo metropolis maintained its presence in a foreign (and presumably hostile) territory.

"Much recent scholarship has focused on colonial encounters between the colonizers and the local populace. My study emphasizes the cultural and political relationship between colonists and the metropolis/homeland," Ogundiran said.

Now a landscape overtaken by secondary forest and wild animals, Ede-Ile was once a prosperous town ringed by Baobab trees and bustling with commerce.



Ogundiran holds an ivory hair pin dating to the 16th Century. The pin was among an assortment of craft objects unearthed during an archeological dig in modern Nigeria.

"Women were traveling 50-plus miles to trade – they contributed a great deal to the economy."



Ogundiran uses leading-edge technology in his laboratory to determine the age of this ivory hair pin, a relic of the Oyo Empire.





Domestic production was essential to economic success for pre-industrial societies. Women drove much of this production and actively participated in trade. Pictured here are craft objects including a brass bangle, ivory jewelries, beads and spindle whorls.

The first excavations at Ede-Ile were carried out in four locations. All the excavated units show that there was no prior settlement or occupation before the Oyo colonists settled on the site that later became Ede-Ile.

While evidence of widely varied forms of commerce are visible at Ede-Ile, the colony might have served another distinct purpose — to protect Oyo citizens from the slave trade.

“Either you joined the slave trade or you were destroyed by it,” Ogundiran said. “As soon as it was established it was almost impossible for African nations to get out of it. The dilemma became what to do with it.”

The empire’s expansion proved to be a double-edged sword. By expanding to the coast the empire was better able to protect the vast majority of its citizens. Conversely, profits from trade, including the slave trade, were necessary to purchase horses for the Oyo cavalry, which was crucial to the empire’s imperial ambitions.

“The European empires grew out of feudal systems. The Oyo Empire wasn’t feudal — every child born in the empire had the right to own and farm land, so the state was financed through commerce,” Ogundiran said. “This structure made it necessary to engage in more and more trade. Financing for the military and a whole retinue of government functions came from the slave trade.”

Though the Oyo Empire protected its citizens from enslavement, it did not spare those outside of the empire. Conquered peoples were made to supply a proscribed number of slaves to be sold on the coast every year.

When Britain outlawed the slave trade in the 1820s, the decision touched off an economic crisis in the empire. At the same time, political unrest in the metropolis and an Islamic uprising in the north contributed to the eventual collapse of the empire.

“Over a period of 300 years, 500,000 Yoruba people were enslaved. As soon as the empire collapsed the protections the citizens enjoyed were no longer available; in just a 50-year period, from 1800 to 1850, half a million Yoruba people were enslaved and brought to the United States, Brazil and Cuba,” Ogundiran said.

These late arrivals brought their rich heritage and traditions to the Americas. Many of which are still alive today in the lyrics of Brazilian pop music, in the practice of Santeria and even in the governance of Oyotunji (“Oyo Rises Again”), a village located in South Carolina. The Oyo Empire collapsed, but its culture was transplanted to the New World.

With funding from the National Science Foundation-Missouri Research

Reactor Center, National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, Ogundiran traveled to Africa this summer to conduct the next phase in his research.

Ogundiran and his team currently are studying the impact of Oyo imperial expansion on the environment, focusing on how activities such as hunting and fishing affected the ecosystem. They also will extend their examination of crafts work and specialization of production.

The results of Ogundiran’s investigations not only enrich understanding of the formation of an African Empire during the Early Modern period, but also reveal the cultural background of the African Diaspora peoples in the Americas — from Cuba to Brazil to Trinidad to Miami to Charlotte.

Ogundiran collaborates with students and institutions in Nigeria, including the National Commission for Museums and Monuments, but hopes to extend the opportunity to participate in fieldwork in Africa and laboratory analysis on campus to UNC Charlotte students. However, he warns, you can’t be afraid of snakes, or very big bugs, if you’re going to dig deep into the lives of traders, kings and cavalry men.

*Lisa A. Patterson is senior writer in the Office of Public Relations.*







# Raise the Green Flag

On Sept. 18, 2008, Chancellor Philip L. Dubois recommended to the Board of Trustees that UNC Charlotte start an NCAA football program. That recommendation came after a 21-month study by a football feasibility committee led by local leaders. That decision gave rise to spontaneous celebrations and rallies like the one pictured here at the Belk Tower. In November of 2008, the trustees voted to accept that recommendation. But the quest for 49er football was far from complete. The Athletics department developed and launched a fundraising and seat license marketing plan in January 2009; a fundraising capital campaign commenced in February 2009 amidst a devastating national, state and local recession. In December 2009 the trustees approved a final financing plan to establish the football program and in February of this year the University of North Carolina Board of Governors approved that plan. Because the plan included issuing debt, it had to be approved by the General Assembly, and the bill of which it was part needed to be signed by Gov. Bev Perdue. The debt was approved in July, and in early August, with the governor's signature, 49er football was finally approved. The team will take the field in 2013. Go 'Niners!



# Tell It Like It Was

## Students, stories and a small South Carolina town

By Lisa A. Patterson

“This big book is the autobiography of an illiterate man.” So begins *All God’s Dangers*, the award-winning autobiography by Theodore Rosengarten, a MacArthur Genius Grant recipient and long-time resident of McClellanville, South Carolina.

Rosengarten is among an eclectic mix of artisans, laborers, writers and retirees who call the town of McClellanville home. Rosengarten and 14 of his neighbors added “interviewee” to their resumes, as they relayed stories about their lives, and the history of their town, to a group of UNC Charlotte honors students.

The 14 students, their instructor, Robert Arnold, and University Honors Program (UHP) Director Connie Rothwell, descended on the tiny fishing village (population 400) as part of a project designed to capture the rich oral history



University Honors Program students greet Miss Eugenia Deas as she joins them for dinner and the official launch of the oral history project.

of the town, and to fulfill a community service requirement mandated by the UNC Charlotte University Honors Program.

With funding from private donations, the students were transported to McClellanville, housed and fed for the weekend. Upon arrival, the students toured town and enjoyed dinner with the residents. Arnold said the dinner served to move many of the students from reticence about the project to excitement.

The next day, the students paired off in teams of two and conducted the interviews. After collecting the material the students returned to campus where they transcribed the interviews and are compiling them as a collection to be sent to The Village Museum at McClellanville.

Though the students received interviewing and equipment training from



Assistant University Librarian for Special Collections Katie McCormick, some harbored fears of being met with silence by the interviewees. It turns out their fears were unfounded.

"The problem we had was getting people to stop talking so the students could get to the next interview," Arnold said.

Sam Watson, UNC Charlotte professor emeritus of English, helped coordinate the project. A resident of McClellanville, Watson said, "Here, once people get cranked up they don't want to shut up."

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Mrs. Lloyd McClellan, pictured here, regaled student Chelsea Kuyath with tales of her adventurous youth in McClellanville, a tiny fishing village on the South Carolina coast.



Students from the UNC Charlotte University Honors Program gathered with McClellanville residents to learn more about the village as part of a project to collect oral histories.

## In Their Own Words

"We often assume that what is of educational importance is either in books or somewhere other than where we are," said Professor Emeritus Sam Watson, who played an integral role in coordinating the McClellanville oral history project for UNC Charlotte honors students. He believes the project encouraged students to view their own lives and experiences as valuable and instructive.

After collecting oral histories from 15 individuals, the students transcribed the interviews, created audio CDs and multi-media DVDs, and wrote reflective essays about their experiences. Below are excerpts from the student essays.

**Student:** Hugh Quach

**Interviewee:** Dr. Bonner

After my experience at McClellanville, I understood why I had to be present for this project to work. I was simply there to listen to these people talk...I assumed the role of guide for them and a comfort.

History tends to repeat itself, so the role of those who have shared their stories with me is to attempt to pass on messages about successes and failures they may have experienced to the future citizens of McClellanville.

**Student:** Chelsea Kuyath

**Interviewee:** Mrs. Lloyd McClellan

Mrs. McClellan was born in McClellanville and has lived there almost ever since. Her colorful stories told of an adventurous youth during WWII and a lively adulthood in a changing society. She shared tales such as the time she went out the second story window to paint her house and ended up dangling by her security rope screaming for help, or when she spent her embalming money on Bojangles' biscuits and antiques on a road trip up to Charlotte.

From the memories Mrs. McClellan shared with us, an image of McClellanville began to form. The Village had been as pretty as a postcard before, but through Mrs. McClellan's eyes, it became a vibrant, dynamic place full of character and history.

**Student:** Conor Dugan

**Interviewee:** Bud Hill

The first thing I noticed about the people of McClellanville is that every one of them is an excellent story teller. Oral history is McClellanville's backbone, its legacy being kept alive by citizens spending time together and sharing memories, which seems to be what makes the place so unique. These people put great importance on spending time with others, getting to know them, talking to them and becoming close.

For more information about the UNC Charlotte University Honors Program, please visit [www.uhonors.uncc.edu](http://www.uhonors.uncc.edu)





# Bringing History to Life

Latta Plantation a perfect fit for Nicole Glinski Cheslak

By Rhiannon Bowman







In February of this year, UNC Charlotte alumna, Nicole Glinski Cheslak ('06) landed her dream job: Executive Director for Latta Plantation in Huntersville. But she hasn't left her alma mater behind — she still checks in with her favorite history teacher from time to time with questions about Charlotte's pre-Civil War history.

Since childhood, Cheslak has had a passion for history. Her parents encouraged her through trips to historical sites across the United States. It wasn't until she was well into her academic career, however, that she accepted history as her major.

A native of Ohio, she first visited Charlotte when she was eight years old. She says she remembers thinking, "I'm going to live here one day." When the time came to choose a college, UNC Charlotte was on top of her list. "It's a big school," she said, "but it has a small feel."

Assistant Professor Dan DuPre helped crystallize that emotion. While Cheslak tried out several other majors, she says she kept coming back to his history classes, most of which concentrate on the timeframe between colonization and the Civil War. Finally, she gave in and became a history major. "You can't fight your love," she said.

Recalling her time as a student, she said she loved how DuPre allows his classes to sit in a circle and, instead of giving lectures every class, he encourages his students to discuss their assignments. "You had to be prepared," Cheslak said of his classes.

"She stood out," DuPre said, adding that he remembers how Cheslak especially enjoyed biographical approaches to history. "I'm pleased that she's using what she's learned at UNC Charlotte in her professional life," he said, adding that Latta Plantation is a "perfect fit" for her.

Cheslak couldn't agree more. Shortly after graduation, she began looking around for work. The first stop on her job hunt was Latta Plantation's Web site ([www.lattaplantation.org](http://www.lattaplantation.org)). Within 30 minutes of submitting her resume she landed an interview. By March 2007, she began

working part-time. By August of the same year, she was the manager of Visitor Services. On Feb. 10, 2010, she became the Executive Director.

The job includes several perks, according to Cheslak. She says Latta's "amazing volunteers" make her job easy. So do her co-workers. "We've all been here long enough, and love the site so much, that we all do our part," she said. One perk recent visitors may have noticed involves one of her five pets. Cleopatra Latta, a Chihuahua puppy, has become the plantation's official greeter.

Unfortunately, the job also has its trials and tribulations. The plantation is a non-profit organization located within a county park. Like so many other county amenities, the organization has faced severe — nearly 50

percent — budget cuts in recent months.

Fortunately, Cheslak said, people continue to attend the site's events. "That's what keeps us going," she said. "We're operating at the bare minimum."

During her short tenure, she's already had to cut expenses and events and the site has had to cut its hours. Once open seven days a week, it now closes on Mondays. While Cheslak fears layoffs may be around the corner, she is not willing to sit around and wait for the sky to fall. Instead, she's thinking of creative new fundraising ideas and seeking additional grant opportunities. She also relies heavily on volunteers.

For her, it's important to avoid getting snagged by the budget crisis so she can stay focused on the organization's goal to bring history to life. "When you come out here," she said, "you experience history. It's so nice for the kids — they can't learn it all in school."

Today, she and her husband still live near campus where he is a mechanical engineering student. She plans to return to UNC Charlotte for graduate school after he graduates with his bachelor's degree.

**Cheslak is seeking new fundraising ideas and grant opportunities.**

*Rhiannon Bowman ('08) is a freelance writer based in Charlotte and a frequent contributor to UNC Charlotte.*



# The Big Picture

Model U.N. explores issues beyond our borders

By Phillip Brown



The 30 members of UNC Charlotte's award-winning Model United Nations (U.N.) club have spent countless hours working together to solve practical and theoretical global problems. The club has helped launch and sustain Model U.N. programs at other universities and high schools in the region.

UNC Charlotte Model United Nations (U.N.), celebrating its 30th year on campus, excels in helping undergraduates to better understand the interconnectedness of the world's many regions and cultures. This year's efforts to search for solutions to global problems resulted in a record 41 awards at regional, national and international competitions.

"We come together to discuss ideas centered on international cooperation, global development and issues impacting the advancement of a global society," said Matt Smither, 2009-10 Model U.N. president. "But beyond talking about the issues, we want to talk about solutions – how do we provide clean water and stop the spread of HIV/AIDS globally?"

Model United Nations combines the principles of the U.N. – collaboration, compromise, diplomacy and justice





– with the acquisition of important skills for virtually any career – public speaking, writing, intensive research, time management and the ability to work with others from diverse backgrounds. Students attend conferences as delegates representing a particular nation, its policies, programs and government.

Beyond the skills that students learn, they become aware of the world beyond our borders, stated Cindy Combs, UNC Charlotte professor of political science and Model U.N. faculty advisor. “As global citizens, they discover the reasons why the world matters to us here. They generate an interest in the world and the desire to travel and make a difference.”

While conferences are the main focus of the Model U.N. program, the bulk of the preparation occurs before students attend an event. Model U.N. relies upon its members to be ready for conferences. The work begins at the start of the fall semester as the club determines which countries it will represent in the Southern Regional Model United Nations conference, held in November. During the spring, Model U.N. members can enroll in a three-hour senior seminar for academic credit and continue preparations for national conferences and the international Harvard World Model United Nations – considered the Olympics of Model U.N. competitions.

According to Combs, this year’s success can be attributed to the dedication of its 30 members and the leadership team of Smither and club vice president Jay Patel.

“The members met twice a week, but Matt and Jay got together several times each week to plan,” Combs said. “They invested a great deal of time with students individually. They encouraged, mentored and empowered members to feel like they could manage the tasks. Students felt they could handle the workload and knew their peers had confidence in their ability to complete their projects. In my 21 years of involvement with Model U.N., I’ve never seen leadership like this.”

Everything Model U.N. does is through the students; we train each other, Smither noted, adding Model U.N. is student-led, student-organized and student-funded. Besides various fund-raising events, the club receives support through corporate donations and area international groups.

In addition to attending four conferences this past academic year, UNC Charlotte Model United Nations hosted its 21<sup>st</sup> annual College Carolina’s Conference to teach delegate skills to participating university students from across the country. Throughout its inception, the club has helped launch and sustain Model U.N. programs at other state universities and high schools in the greater Charlotte





metropolitan region; this year, two high schools (one in Hickory, the other, Charlotte) joined a growing roster of programs supported by UNC Charlotte Model U.N..

For the first time, the group is moving beyond the theoretical to gain first-hand experience in being part of the global community. In July, members traveled to Haiti, a nation still recovering from a devastating earthquake.

“We had great success in recognition at conferences, traveled to exciting locations and served as ambassadors for UNC Charlotte and the Charlotte community, but we had not affected change in our global community,” said Smither. Working with Mercy League International, the club completed an educational and construction project in July.

Model U.N. members come from diverse cultural backgrounds. Because of the many hours they spend together in preparation, members become as close as a family, which has resulted in a strong alumni base for networking and support.

Moving forward, the concern for the organization, like any club, is how to sustain and build upon the tradition of excellence for which UNC Charlotte Model U.N. has become synonymous.

“Model U.N. is hunger; it only exists for

## In the quest to create citizens of the world, the Model U.N. is delivering. Of the eight Model U.N. seniors who graduated, five are pursuing international opportunities.

the will to want more. Entering the year, we looked at our record, and said, ‘We’ve got the best award record of any club at this school, is that enough?’ Smither remarked. “We’re not satisfied by the status quo. We’re looking for new universities to sponsor and new high schools to bring in. We want to continue to improve the conferences that we host. The addition of the social venture program (trip to Haiti) gives us new direction. We don’t want to just speak and write about issues and solutions in conference; we want to be the people on the ground, making those changes and achieving tangible results.”

In the quest to create citizens of the world, Model U.N. is delivering. Of the eight Model U.N. seniors who graduated,

five are pursuing international opportunities. Smither, a Mount Pleasant native and recent graduate with a bachelor’s degree in history and political science, intends to spend the next year working abroad teaching English, either in Korea or China, before returning to pursue a master’s degree in diplomacy and peace studies.

“After being involved with Model U.N. and traveling to conferences nationally and internationally, it is exciting to see these students want to get a better feel for culture and language studies,” said Combs. “As the Model U.N. academic advisor, that’s what you’re hoping for.”

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*Phillip Brown is internal communications manager in the Office of Public Relations.*



Continued from p. 7

“Working at the YMCA opened my eyes to many poverty situations. I’ve also worked with Charlotte Rescue Mission, Habitat for Humanity, and the local food bank. And I have a lot of friends who are freegans,” she said. “I set up this project to raise poverty awareness in a way not a lot of people do.”

She elected to dumpster dive for a month at minimum and has been chronicling the experience at [www.thefrugaldumsterdiver.wordpress.com](http://www.thefrugaldumsterdiver.wordpress.com)

Because of the economic recession, non-profit organizations that deliver essential services to Charlotte’s more than 5,000 homeless, 3,000 of whom are children, and scores more people who comprise the region’s working poor, have suffered. Donations to local food pantries are flagging.

“Most people don’t like to think about trash, and specifically, discarded food,” Tokay said. “On average, Americans throw away 200,000 tons of edible food daily. This means that while people around the world struggle with daily hunger, we are throwing out perfectly good food.”

Tokay wanted to see just how much food is discarded by grocery stores alone in the hope of ultimately changing the situation. It didn’t take long for her to conclude that far too many of the items thrown away could instead be utilized by food pantries and other organizations committed to eliminating hunger and poverty.

“Stores throw away loaves of bread on its expiration date,” she said. “One day I counted 27 loaves of bread in the dumpster.”

She explained that liability issues often get in the way of food going from the store to the food pantry and admitted that this might be the biggest hurdle to implementing programs that could help cut down on waste and feed people in need.

“I’ve done some research on expiration dates and have found that ‘used by, sell by and best before’ are just unregulated dates that grocery stores put on food as guidelines for perishable items,” Tokay noted. “In my recent food discoveries I have found that a lot of items are thrown out the day they expire, or in fact several days before the stamped package date.”

Tokay plans to go back to her “normal” life after the experiment but said she will supplement her grocery shopping with dumpster diving.



UNC Charlotte honors program student Kaitlyn Tokay is raising awareness of homelessness and hunger in a unique way - she is blogging about her experience as a “dumpster diver.”

However for some, dumpster diving is among the best of very few options. Tokay heard a first-hand account of life on the street when she encountered a man in his late 20s, wearing a dress shirt and khaki pants, digging through “her” dumpster. She struck up a conversation with him and learned that his name was Mike and he had been homeless for eight years. He offered to share his best finds with Tokay, discussed the judgments people make about his lifestyle, and told her about the spots he frequents. He gets everything he needs to live from dumpsters — food and even electronic devices. He was hoping that the nearby sporting goods store would throw out a tent some time, as a tent would make an excellent shelter.

“You wouldn’t know Mike was homeless if you encountered him on the street — his nice clothes make him look like any other person,” Tokay said.

The wealthiest nation in the world, the United States houses five percent of the world’s population and consumes 25 percent of the Earth’s resources. On the flip side, more than 1.5 million people in the United States live on the streets or in shelters, according to conservative estimates. To eradicate poverty and waste on a global scale, Tokay believes change must come one community, one county at a time.

“It’s so easy to give that person on the side of the road a couple dollars and move on with life,” Tokay said. “I grew up without ever wondering about where my next meal would come from, like most people I know. But many people, even in Charlotte, don’t have the luxury of taking food and shelter for granted.”

*Lisa A. Patterson is senior writer in the Office of Public Relations.*

# Visionary teacher, researcher, coach

Endowment honors Harvey Murphy

By Buffie Stephens



“The opportunity to help build a university was just too good to pass up and Dr. Cone – Miss Bonnie – was a remarkable woman.”

When Harvey Murphy visited Charlotte College in 1965, he wasn’t impressed. At the time, the College was vying to become part of the UNC system. “There is no way the state of North Carolina will grant university status to this college,” thought Murphy. Then he met UNC Charlotte founder Dr. Bonnie Cone.

Cone learned about Murphy through Jim Matthews, a biology professor at UNC Charlotte. The College, soon to become a University, was in need of a health and physical education program and Cone was recruiting.

It didn’t take her very long to convince Murphy that he needed to take on the job (Cone remains legendary for her persuasiveness and her attitude of not accepting no for an answer).

“Within 20 minutes I was sharing my ideas about how to make Charlotte College into a first class university,” Murphy remembers. “The opportunity to help build a university from the beginning was just too good to pass up and Dr. Cone — Miss Bonnie — was a remarkable woman.”

There was only one more thing that Cone needed: An “interim” men’s basketball coach. So it began.

Murphy joined Charlotte College in the fall of 1965 as the Athletic Director and men’s basketball coach. He was charged with developing all aspects of campus

recreational, athletic and health and physical education efforts. Charlotte College became The University of North Carolina at Charlotte that year.

There were no athletic facilities or university housing at the time. The basketball team practiced in area elementary schools and played games in high school gyms. “The showers were made for little people and the boys towered over the lockers,” Murphy said. The players drove themselves to practices and games. When they couldn’t find a ride, Murphy picked them up and drove them home, which he did with regularity. Murphy and the team manager had to substitute at times and scrimmage with the team. “Those young men gave a lot and they inspired me.” The 49ers won the Dixie Conference championships in 1969 and 1970.

“We also integrated the team while I was coach. We recruited the first African American player, T. J. Reddy, who played for a year. I received some phone calls about that,” said Murphy.

Murphy blazed new trails while building the physical education department. He decided that men and women should participate together in the same physical education classes. It was a very progressive notion at the time. “It provided economical savings as well,” he said. He is particularly



To establish the Dr. Harvey Murphy Scholarship in perpetuity, the Department of Kinesiology continues to accept donations. Contributions may be mailed to: College of Health and Human Services, attn: Heather Shaughnessy, UNC Charlotte, 9201 University City Boulevard, Charlotte, NC 28223. For more information, visit [www.health.uncc.edu](http://www.health.uncc.edu) or contact Heather Shaughnessy at 704.687.7737 or [hshaughn@uncc.edu](mailto:hshaughn@uncc.edu).



proud of the fact that in 1975, he helped hire current Athletics Director Judy Rose as women's basketball and tennis coach and physical education teacher.

He also established the now robust intramural program at UNC Charlotte. "We began a women's intramural football team and played power puff football; not so politically correct these days."

Murphy is lauded for his vision and approach to health and physical education. He was a pioneer who helped establish the fact that exercise is indeed healthy and essential to a long life-span. During his 31 years at UNC Charlotte, the Department of Health and Physical Education transformed into the Department of Kinesiology in the College of Health and Human Services.

"I was allowed freedom to run my department and the camaraderie we had among us was palpable. We helped faculty get the resources they needed to do good research," said Murphy. "Mike Turner, Tim Lightfoot, Mitch Cordova, and Linda Berne have done tremendous applied research in the area of exercise physiology, sports medicine and health promotion. That caliber of faculty has helped to establish UNC Charlotte as a major research university."

Murphy himself has made enormous contributions to the health and well-being of Charlotte and the region. He helped

to establish the first cardiac rehabilitation program at what is now Carolinas Medical Center using a grant from the Heart Association and the state of North Carolina.

"Physicians at the time were afraid of exercise therapy after heart attacks," said Murphy. "We convinced a few emergency room physicians to monitor our exercise sessions and they became more comfortable with the concept." Murphy also helped the Charlotte Fire Department establish a fitness program.

According to Kinesiology Department Chair Mitch Cordova, "Dr. Murphy was a true visionary in understanding the importance of exercise and preventing chronic diseases such as cardio vascular disease, obesity, and diabetes, the importance of exercise in rehabilitating people with these conditions. He was a leader in organizing some of the early conferences and workshops within the profession at the time."

While at UNC Charlotte, he served on the YMCA Board of Directors of the Southeast Region and helped develop training programs for Y staff and volunteers. He established certification programs. Murphy visited the Soviet Union in 1977 to observe Soviet fitness and sports program for the YMCA.

Growing up in Enterprise, Ala., Murphy didn't think he had the resources to attend college. Murphy played basketball, football and baseball at Coffee County High School.

Buddy McCollum, the basketball coach at Troy State Teachers College saw him play basketball.

"McCollum — we called him Batman — recruited me and he changed my life forever. You never know what opportunities will come to you. I knew I didn't want to be a farmer. So many people gave me opportunities," said Murphy.

That is the philosophy he has lived by during his 44 years of teaching. Murphy has presented opportunity to students and faculty over the years and did it intentionally, paying tribute to those who offered him the same.

As a tribute to Harvey Murphy, the Department of Kinesiology at UNC Charlotte honored him this year by endowing a scholarship in his name. The Dr. Harvey Murphy Scholarship will benefit students in the Department of Kinesiology. UNC Charlotte faculty and staff — past and present — former students and athletes, friends and family all have contributed to the scholarship fund.

"I'm thrilled," said Murphy. "I must have left the department in good shape," he added.

Good shape, indeed.

*Buffie Stephens, a UNC Charlotte alumna, is media relations manager in the Office of Public Relations.*

# Helping Women Faculty ADVANCE

Grant funds program to nurture STEM faculty

By Lynn Roberson

UNC Charlotte is keenly focused on faculty recruitment and advancement, in part through its cornerstone initiatives supported by a \$2.15 million ADVANCE grant from the National Science Foundation.

“The grant relates specifically to our institutional climate for women faculty in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, or STEM disciplines,” says Joan Lorden, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs. “However, we are leveraging the impact throughout the university. Engaging men and women in creating an equitable gender climate contributes to a positive environment for all, including students.”

UNC Charlotte is among a select group of universities nationwide to have received an ADVANCE grant, with one year remaining on its five-year award. While nationwide studies continue to show challenges in attracting women to STEM careers in academia and industry, UNC Charlotte has shown progress.

Notably, the number of female STEM faculty promoted and obtaining tenure has grown 14 percent since the University received the grant. The number of women in STEM leadership roles has increased 23 percent. During the most recent round of promotions in the Lee College of Engineering, four of the six faculty members achieving tenure and promotion to associate professor were women, in another example.

## ADVANCE INFLUENCES INSTITUTIONAL CHANGE

The NSF grant has acted as a catalyst for sustainable institutional changes at UNC Charlotte. Collaborators include Academic



Mentee Janaka Lewis (left) and mentor Lisa Walker discussed ways to balance demands on faculty's time.

Affairs, Human Resources, the Council on University Community, the Chancellor's Diversity Fund, the Faculty Council, various colleges, the Center for Professional and Applied Ethics and others. A leadership team drawn from various colleges and chaired by Lorden guides the efforts.

In one important example of systemic impact, the ADVANCE Future of the Faculty committee has advocated for policy improvements with university-wide implications.

“ADVANCE has influenced the broadening of pathways leading to promotion and the expansion of rationales for stopping the tenure clock, or the time faculty have to achieve tenure,” Lorden says. “ADVANCE also championed the

need for a faculty ombudsperson, a position endorsed by the Faculty Council.”

ADVANCE manages the University's faculty recruitment training for search committees, to enable fair, inclusive and effective searches. In a survey of attendees, 84 percent who responded said they became more aware of potential bias in the search process. Workshops include reviews of case studies, training on cognitive bias in committee discussions and a review of the potential impact of job advertisements, including how they are written and where they are posted.

“We believe it is critical for departments to think inclusively when conducting faculty searches,” Lorden says. “We have reached hundreds of search committee



members through these workshops, giving them resources to guide their work and allowing them to share effective practices.”

### ADVANCE HELPS FACULTY GROW IN THEIR VARIED ROLES

While much of the work by ADVANCE is systemic and large-scale, other efforts are geared toward individual faculty members. Mentoring and leadership development opportunities can be key to faculty success, says ADVANCE Faculty Director Yvette Huet, who also is a biology professor.

“Attracting diverse faculty is important for the continued growth of our university,” Huet says. “We also believe it is essential to help our new and existing faculty expand their leadership and their knowledge.”

The mentoring program offers professional support for tenure-track faculty, as they move towards promotion



ADVANCE offers leadership development courses, such as this one attended by Ying Lu of the Belk College of Business (center.)

and tenure. One signature program matches junior faculty members with senior colleagues who are outside their home units, as a supplement to the mentoring that also occurs within a faculty member’s discipline or program.

ADVANCE also directs peer-mentoring programs with mid-career faculty, and senior faculty members from across the university meet as groups to share information and support each other, especially regarding career advancement.

Kim Buch of the psychology department directly oversees the mid-career mentoring effort, while Huet coordinates the early career mentoring.

“Mentors can help new faculty become socialized to the university culture and to learn about resources and opportunities,” Huet says. “We think this also enhances our intellectual community and builds bridges between colleges and departments. As our university raises its stature in interdisciplinary research, the mentoring efforts can be an efficient and personal way to grow connections.”



Mentor Robin Coger and mentee Xiuxia Du say trust is critical to mentoring partnerships.

To be successful, mentors and mentees need to understand each other’s expectations, say mentor Robin Coger and her mentee, Xiuxia Du. “You have to be on the same page as to what the mentee is hoping to gain from the relationship,” Coger says. “It’s important to have that discussion early. Another critical step is establishing trust.”

Du joined UNC Charlotte’s Department of Bioinformatics & Genomics as an assistant professor in 2008. She has found invaluable the relationships and knowledge that Coger has amassed and shared, most recently in Coger’s roles as professor of Mechanical Engineering and Engineering Science and director of the Center for Biomedical Engineering Systems.

“Robin thinks of me not only when we’re talking in person but also at other times,”

Du says. “She is so gracious. She has sent me articles and told me about workshops. She has a broader perspective. She gives specific solutions when I have issues, but she also sees deeper.”

Mentor Lisa Slattery Walker, professor and chair of the Sociology Department, and her mentee Janaka Lewis, assistant professor in the English Department, consider ways to balance teaching and research, as well as professional and family life.

“How I see my job as a mentor is not to tell people how to do things but to help them figure out what works for them,” Walker says. “The way to be successful as a faculty member is to figure out what works for you. I try to see where the person is and what they need.”

Lewis has applied what she gained from Walker as well as her department chair and others in her department. “This has also helped to supplement the information I was receiving in my department,” she says. “It helps the interactions to be very human. I see what is possible at UNC Charlotte. I haven’t seen limits. Being here this first year and being with people who were encouraging me has extended that view for me.”

Other ADVANCE initiatives include:

Leadership UNC Charlotte, a year-long seminar series focused on issues rising leaders face and offered to a group of no more than 24 selected faculty;

A year-long new faculty orientation covering issues including plagiarism, communication and effective use of new media and information technology;

Facilitated sessions between long-standing and newly appointed chairs;

Forums when the deans and the provost discuss promotion criteria with associate professors;

Informal gatherings of faculty peer groups, called Focus Energy Fridays;

A women’s speakers series highlighting practical ideas for growing leadership and an inclusive climate;

Bonnie Cone Fellowships, awarded to new and mid-career female faculty in STEM fields, to help grow their careers and leadership; and Faculty climate surveys.

*Lynn Roberson is project director for communication in the ADVANCE Faculty Affairs Office.*

Continued from p. 25

Since the advent of the printing press the art of oral story telling has been eclipsed by the written word. The shift has become more pronounced in the present digital age, when it seems people are eager to share even the most mundane details of their lives in writing. But oral historical accounts have distinct value apart from the written record.

Buried in the memories of the townspeople are the reminiscences of events and personal interactions that form the foundation of a community's collective identity. Oral histories uncover and preserve these reminiscences; and sometimes they even help level the historical playing field.

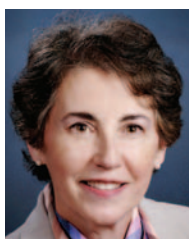
"You are probably familiar with the old adage 'History is written by the winners.' In a very basic sense, sharing one's story and having a voice is an exercise in power; it is a way of adding one's version of events to complement and compete with the stories of others," Arnold said.



Robert Arnold

Implicit in the act of listening is the message that everyone has a story to tell, that no one is anonymous.

"Even in a place like McClellanville people become more aware they have stories when they encounter people who haven't heard the stories and are eager to listen. I hear it in the pride of their voices when we talk with one another," Watson explained.



Connie Rothwell

Rothwell conceived of the project after visiting Watson.

Rothwell said she often is asked, "Why McClellanville?" In tandem with the connection to Watson, and considerations of student well-being — the town can be traversed on foot and provides a safe learning environment — McClellanville not only is a place where the past has been preserved, but also is an example of



McClellanville resident Charlotte Morris is pictured here in her youth.

the nexus between tradition and cultural transition.

"It's the sort of place that still has a distinctive identity," Watson said. "McClellanville never really went through the Civil Rights movement."

The racial divide is both physical and metaphorical. Whites live within the literal boundaries of the village, and the Black community surrounds the village proper. Many of the townspeople are descendants of slaves or plantation owners, and there is very little contact between the races.

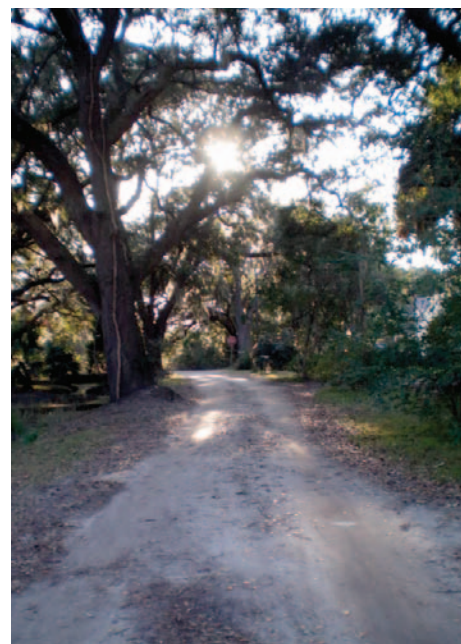
Since her oral history interview with two African-American honors students, that has changed for Charlotte Morris, a McClellanville native now in her 70s. After the interview, Morris told Watson that she really enjoyed talking with the students and that her experience made her think differently about issues of race.

"The wall between diverse communities crumbled a bit to create an opening for dialogue and mutual interest," Rothwell said.

Continued dialogue among community members, Black and White, might be the only thing standing between McClellanville and major demographic changes.

Many residents remarked to student interviewers that their village has become a popular sanctuary for transplants, mostly retirees, and tourists. In fact, some residents

The wall between diverse communities crumbled a bit to create an opening for dialogue and mutual interest.



The sun sets in the village of McClellanville, population 400.

feel the town is "in danger" of becoming a resort community.

In recent years, land and property prices in McClellanville have skyrocketed, rendering it nearly impossible for the younger generation of inhabitants to remain in their hometown.

Whatever changes lie ahead for the town, the oral history project has helped capture the character of McClellanville as it was, and as it is — and with a little moral and financial support, UNC Charlotte's UHP students might return to document the town's future.

*Lisa A. Patterson is senior writer in the Office of Public Relations.*

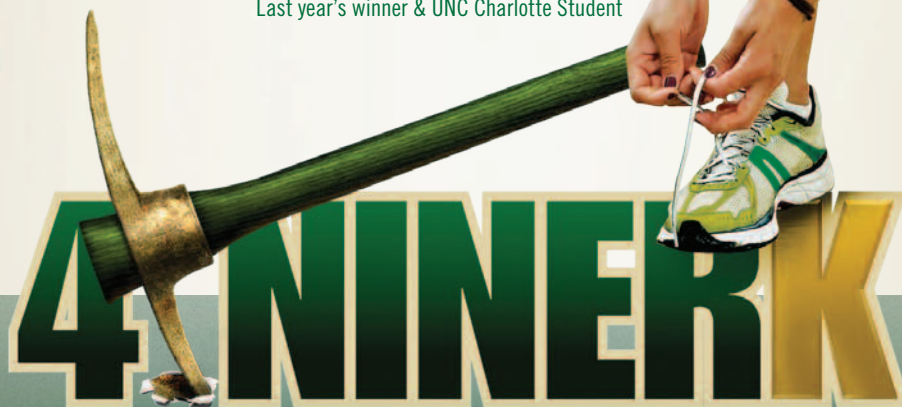


# BLEEDS GREEN & GOLD GOING FOR GOLD AGAIN IN 2010.

The second annual UNC Charlotte 4.Niner K Scholarship Run/Walk is drawing near. This is your chance to stake your claim alongside community leaders, UNC Charlotte alumni, faculty and staff, and friends. Run, walk, or stroll your way through a family-friendly 4.9k course. All race proceeds go to help fund need-based scholarships. Sign up and stake your claim for UNC Charlotte today!

**Jordan Easton**

Last year's winner & UNC Charlotte Student



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1970s

**Michael D. Evans, '77**, was elected chair of the Fresno County Democratic Central Committee. Evans previously served two terms as chair of the Mecklenburg County Democratic Party. He relocated when his spouse, Yoshiko Takahashi (M.A. '02, Ph.D. '08), accepted a teaching position at California State University, Fresno.

**Jill S. Tietjen, PE, '79**, has been elected by shareholders to Merrick & Company's Board of Directors. Tietjen is president and CEO of Technically Speaking, a consulting firm that serves the electric utilities industry as well as organizations that serve the electric utility industry.

**Ward Simmons, '79**, recently completed the Integrated Study and Practice Program at the Barre Center for Buddhist Studies in Massachusetts. He is currently enrolled in the Community Dharma Leader program at Spirit Rock Meditation Center in California.

1980s

**Scott Baxter, '85**, has written, directed and produced the short film, "No Asians...it's just not my thing." The film has been accepted in 10 film festivals, won a best actor award at the Boston International film festival, and will be shown in September at the Charlotte Film Festival.

2000s

**Cherry Owens, '03**, was recently promoted to 4K coordinator at Northside Academy for Early Learning.

**Nichole McLaughlin, '04**, received a Master's Degree in Human Resources from Western Carolina University in May 2010.

**Trey Carpenter, '07**, married Ashley Dooley in April 2010.

**Nora Carr, '08**, received the 2010 National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA) Presidents Award.

Alumni Notes

**12th Annual TIAA-Cref Alumni Golf Outing** in support of Dr. Gregory Davis Need Based Scholarship takes place on Monday Oct. 11 at Pine Island Country Club. Come out and golf for a good cause. The scholarship was established in 2008 for students with demonstrated financial need who posses good academic standing. Dr. Davis launched several programs designed to keep students on track with their college degree goals. Tuition assistance through scholarship is an important piece to the puzzle. "Because I was a first generation college student, scholarships, federal and state aid made it possible for my dream to come true," said Davis.

**All Greek Reunion - meet us on the 49 yard line.** Renew old acquaintances and create new ones at the first annual All Greek Reunion, from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Oct. 23, on Hayes Athletic Fields. A \$1,000 need-based scholarship will be given to the Greek Organization with the most paid participants. See [unccharlottealumni.org](http://unccharlottealumni.org) for more details.

What are you doing?

It is time to share what you've been up to lately and let other alums help you toot your horn or spread the word on small or large achievements. We want to hear from you. Visit the Alumni Affairs Web site at [www.unccharlottealumni.org](http://www.unccharlottealumni.org) and tell us what you've been doing. Or write **Alumni Affairs, UNC Charlotte**, 9201 University City Blvd. Charlotte, NC 28223-0001

# The Charitable Gift Annuity...

how to guarantee fixed income for life while providing a gift for the deserving students of UNC Charlotte.

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70	5.7
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85	8.1

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70/70	5.2
75/75	5.6
80/80	6.1
85/85	7.0

May we illustrate one for you?

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# High-tech Beds Enhance Clinical Training



Nursing students express their appreciation for the new hospital beds donated by Linet Americas, Inc.

The School of Nursing at UNC Charlotte would like to thank Linet Americas, Inc. for their generous donation of three state-of-the-art hospital beds to the School's Learning Laboratories. Two Eleganza 3 beds, and one Eleganza EZ bed, valued at more than \$23,000, were personally delivered by Colin Bain, president and CEO; Bill Mauze, account executive and UNC Charlotte alumnus and their team.

College of Health and Human Services Dean Karen Schmalig stated that "Integrating the latest technology in hospital beds in our Learning Resources Center will greatly enhance the clinical and simulation training for our nursing students. We would like to thank Linet

Americas for their generosity and ongoing partnership with the School of Nursing."

By incorporating feedback from nursing faculty and students into the design of their products, this ongoing partnership will benefit both the School of Nursing and Linet Americas, Inc. Founded just outside of Prague, Czech Republic in 1990, Linet has quickly become a leading producer of hospital beds and patient room equipment throughout the world. Linet's products – hospital beds, mattresses, furniture and other medical care products – are sold in more than 70 countries on all continents. Linet products are developed in close collaboration with healthcare professionals.

Linet Americas is the operating division of Linet that services the Americas marketplace. The company is headquartered in Charlotte and provides localized sales and service to customers in the region.

The School of Nursing prepares a diverse nursing workforce to care for the representative populations of the region, generates and disseminates knowledge through research on the life transitions that affect the health outcomes of diverse populations, and is a leader in its offering of quality academic programs and use of information technology to enhance learning and to provide greater student access to both undergraduate and graduate education.



# THE JOY OF GIVING

Three of UNC Charlotte's legendary benefactors, (left to right) Oliver Rowe, Addison Reese, and J. Murrey Atkins welcome a gift into the University's coffers. The November 21, 1960, event was a presentation of a check for \$2,500 by Reese, on behalf of North Carolina National Bank (NCNB), to the Charlotte College Foundation. The presentation was made at a luncheon following the groundbreaking ceremonies for the Charlotte College campus (on Highway 49). The Rowe Arts building, Reese administration building and the J. Murrey Atkins Library are named for these leaders.

Rowe was a University Patron of Excellence and was president of the Rowe Corp., an enterprise making products ranging from farm equipment to synthetic fiber machinery. Reese was a longtime banker who became chairman and CEO of NCNB and served as chairman of the site selection committee that chose today's campus location. He also served as chairman of the University's board of trustees from 1965-1972. Atkins was a civic leader in education and was president of R. S. Dickson & Company, a textiles brokerage firm.



# International Staff Intern Embraces UNC Charlotte

By Fatima Tauqir

After working with enthusiasm and dedication for the last three years as Student Affairs and Marketing Officer at NUST School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences, in Islamabad, Pakistan, I was highly motivated and engrossed in learning more about the world and convinced of the importance of global perspective. My Director General Dr. Arshad and I contacted a colleague at UNC Charlotte to arrange for a professional internship dedicated to examining and understanding student affairs and higher education in the United States.

On my home campus in the School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, I am responsible for the management of the student affairs office and activities; developing, coordinating and distributing marketing materials reflecting School and University interest and services; overseeing large events for students including annual Open House, Alumni Homecoming, Convocations, and International Culture Day. I also manage the Alumni Office of the school. As an alumna of the school's program (I graduated in 2006 with a degree in Information Technology), I bring specific understanding of the school's academic offerings and the individual student experience.

Warmly welcomed by the UNC Charlotte community, I immediately took advantage of all the opportunities and within a month had visited with a staggering number of campus departments and units including: Student Union, Student Activities, Career Services, Counseling Center, Graduate School, Human Resources, Housing and Residence Life, Continuing Education, Development and Alumni Affairs, International Students and Scholars, and Student Affairs.

My meetings provided a platform from which I built relationships and strengthened my understandings of policies, system and rules. Through this experience and interaction I have learned a lot. It has enhanced my ability to think and helped me in diverse perception of things.

Apart from scheduling myself with all these departments with my supervisor Marcia Kiessling every week, I have also been keenly engaged on the UNC Charlotte campus. I led a discussion during Graduate Education Week in March and presented about NUST and Pakistan to the campus community in April 16. I took professional development courses at UNC Continuing Education. Lastly as part of my internship experience I worked with UNC Charlotte's Intercultural Outreach to help connect with a group of MBA students from India.

I attended an array of seminars, workshops and various other campus activities that are being arranged for the students, faculty and staff. I find people working in a collegial and organized manner. During my interactions I have tried to study and observe how these good quality methods and procedures

practiced at UNC Charlotte can be incorporated in my parent university, back home.

I enjoyed life in the United States, including traveling, shopping and cooking. I have a passion for cooking and trying dishes from around the world and loved seeing the behind-the-scenes-work of the Chartwells culinary team at UNC Charlotte. In my last two weeks in the United States I traveled from lush beautiful greenery of Charlotte to the amazing Golden Gate Bridge of San Francisco to Malibu on the Pacific Ocean, and then to Manhattan in New York, experiencing different yet amazingly diverse cultures in three states.

My camera was always at-the-ready from my first ever experience with snow and then twice again, to the beautiful colorful spring and in the end to the blazing hot summer, giving me the best six months of my life.

I was recognized at 5th Annual International Women's Day. I made extremely wonderful and talented mentors and friends and had an experience which I never thought was meant to happen. At the end, I hope my experience will bring about a positive change in terms of innovation in NUST processes that enable maximum support to students and faculty members. Through this internship opportunity I have tried to establish a strong partnership through collaborative exchange programs between NUST and UNC Charlotte.

I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to UNC Charlotte for providing me this international exposure. It has enhanced my life and polished my professional skills beyond my expectations.



  
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